

THE REBELLION.

Highly Important News from Washington.

Advance of the Outposts of the Hostile Armies.

The Pickets of the Forces Within Speaking Distance of Each Other.

Active Preparations for an Engagement.

A GRAND BATTLE HOURLY EXPECTED.

Large Bodies of Troops En Route and Ordered to the Capital.

REPORTED FIGHT AT PIEDMONT, VA.

Skirmish at Savannah, Mo., and Defeat of the Rebels.

RETURN OF THE REBELS TO HARPER'S FERRY.

Interesting Reports from Fortress Monroe and Western Virginia.

Proclamation of Gen. Lyon to the People of Missouri.

EXPECTED BATTLE AT CAIRO.

Louis Napoleon's Views of the Rebellion and His Designs on England.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, June 20, 1861.

ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR A GRAND BATTLE—

IMMEDIATE ATTACK ON THE UNION FORCES EX-PECTED.

From information received this afternoon, it is believed

that a forward movement of the whole of General

McClellan's division, to repel an attack by the rebel forces,

is now taking place.

Mr. Emerson, of South Reading, Massachusetts, re-

turned from Arlington Heights about two o'clock, and

reports that the New York Eighth regiment has started,

with two days' rations, and without knapsacks, towards

Fairfax Court House. The cavalry there has also already

gone out, and other regiments are preparing to follow

tomorrow. The Union and rebel pickets are inter-

posed along the whole line within speaking distance.

Dr. S. O. Richardson, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Em-

erson, who were informed by the Provost Marshal at Alex-

andria that an engagement is now unavoidable, and

that they were civilians and Northern men, it might be

convenient for them to take the boat for Washington without

delay.

It is evident that the rebels have pushed forward their

line from Manassas Junction and Fairfax Court House,

and it is the opinion of shrewd military men here that

they intend to engage our troops and retire gradually,

drawing our forces after them into an ambuscade of

massed field batteries. It is believed that they have la-

sured batteries all along the line from Manassas Junction

to Fairfax Court House, and their attack at present is not

with the expectation of carrying our defenses, but of

drawing out our troops within reach of their concealed

batteries. Under these circumstances, the rebels have again

left Fort Corcoran, and proceeded a short distance in the di-

rection of Ball's Church. A mounted scout had applied

Colonel Corcoran of the adjacent approach of a large

body of rebels within three miles of the fort. A thorough

scouting of the adjacent country was undertaken, and the

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of the fact. I do not learn that any other State re-

sponded to General Wallace's letter of inquiry.

THE RECENT ARMY APPOINTMENTS.

Complaints continue in reference to the new army ap-

pointments. General Scott said, in conversation yesterday

with the President and other gentlemen, that during his

long connection with the service he had never known so

much care taken in the selection of officers. While this

is true, it is equally so that some persons recommended

by General Scott were not appointed. Names of very

experienced youths appear in the list as First Lieuten-

ants, who know nothing whatever about military mat-

ters. When the new regiments were called for by the

President, a commission, consisting of General (then

Major) McDowell, Colonel Franklin and Major

McGuire, was appointed to fix upon a plan for their

formation. It was agreed by this commission, and sanc-

tioned by the Secretary of War and General Scott, that

half of the officers of the new regiments should be ap-

pointed from the old army, and the other half from civil

life. More than this has been done, for the Secretary of

War, desiring to make the army in every respect what

it should be, and anxious to reward a large number of

meritorious military officers, exceeded the number re-

commended by the commission referred to. Only a few Second Lieuten-

ants have been appointed. All the vacancies are to be

filled by non-commissioned officers and private men in

the United States Army, who may be deemed worthy of

promotion.

James Cameron was this afternoon elected Colonel of

the Seventy-ninth (Highlanders) regiment, and tonight

he was succeeded by the band of that regiment, at the

residence of his brother, Secretary Cameron.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S VIEWS OF THE REBELLION.

Louis Napoleon has his eye on England, and before

he leaves sight of her he means to wipe out Waterloo.

A highly intelligent American gentleman arrived here

today, just from Paris. He figured in court circles while

there, and had several interviews with the Emperor, at

each of which the latter turned the conversation upon

the exciting state of affairs in this country. He not only

expressed the strongest sympathies with the government

of the United States, and denounced the rebellion, but

also said to my informant, "When you return to the

United States, tell the people I am heartily with them

and if any one of the great Powers recognizes the rebels

I will give my hearty support to the present gov-

ernment, and against any interference." The

understanding to mean England. My informant

says Napoleon's conversations pointed all the time to the

probable action of England in relation to our affairs, and

he did not disguise the hope that she would interfere and

recognize the so-called government of the Confederate

States, in order that he might have an excuse to pitch in.

His first move would be to incite rebellion in Ireland.

At the same time Canada would repel the idea of the

home government recognizing a bogus government, based

upon the system of slavery. They would prefer to

link their fortunes with the free people of the North.

DANGER ON THE ISTHMI OF PANAMA.

Some reports, more or less incorrect, having appeared

in the New York papers about the steps taken by the

New Granada. Legislation concerning the isthmus of Pa-

nama, there is a report that the United States, there in-

quired about the facts of the case, which are as follows:

A month ago news reached this country to the effect that

a considerable expedition was being fitted out in the rebel

States of Magdalena and Bolivar (which claim to have

seceded from the Grandian confederacy upon the ground

of State sovereignty and State rights), and was ready to

start from Cartagena, with the purpose of extending the

revolution to the State of Panama, and abstracting it

from the power of the federal government. The

news added that a dangerous class of people, not

native to Panama, but residents in that

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